

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

OMB-01 TRSE-00 EUR-12 AF-06 /071 W

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P R 181155Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5834

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY THIRAN

UNCLAS BEIRUT 10473

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN PFOR TC US

SUBJ: PRESS REPORT OF U.S. AIR AND NAVAL BASE IN RAS AL-KHAYMA

1. AUGUST 18 ISSUE OF OFTEN RELIABLE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE WEEKLY "AN-NAHAR ARAB REPORT" HIGHLIGHTS FOLLOWING REPORT UNDER HEADLINE "RAS EL-KHAIMAH: NEW SITE FOR U.S. BASES".

2. QUOTE IN RAS EL-KHAIMAH, NEW U.S. AIR AND NAVAL BASE APPEARS TO BE IN OFFING. EMIRATE HAS JUST FINISHED BUILDING INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT... NEGOTIATIONS ARE TAKING PLACE BETWEEN U.S. QUARTERS AND EMIRATE OFFICIALS FOR AIRPORT TO BE USED BY U.S. MILITARY AS AIR BASE, ESPECIALLY NOW THAT AMERICAN PLANS TO LEASE MASIRAH ISLAND FROM OMAN HAVE MET SO MUCH BRITISH AND ARAB OPPOSITION, RAS EL-KHAIMAH AIRPORT WILL BE USED AS STOPOVER BETWEEN DIEGO GARCIA.... AND MIDDLE EAST, AND IT WOULD THUS COMPRISE IMPORTANT LINK IN AMERICAN AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM IN AREA. AT SAME TIME, U.S. OFFICIALS ARE UNCLASSIFIED

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COMTEMPLATING USING DEEP-WATER PORT OF KHOR KHAWAIN NORTH

OF RAS EL-KHAIMAH.... IN CASE PRESENT FACILITIES IN
BAHRAIN BECOME UNAVAILABLE DUE TO LOCAL
PARLIMENTARY OPPOSITION, AMERICANS WOULD TRUN TO RAS
EL-KHAIMAH... CURRENT AMERICAN MOVES TOWARD ESTABLISH-
MENT OF MILITARY COMPLEX AT RAS EL-KHAIMAH IN GULF AND
AT DIEGO GARCIA IN INDIAN OCEAN SHOULD BE VIEWED IN
LIGHT OF ITS CONCERN OVER GROWING SOVIET MILITARY STRENGTH
IN THESE AREAS.UNQUOTE.

3. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE PROMPT PRESS GUIDANCE FOR USE
IN RESPONDING TO LOCAL AND AMERICAN PRESS INQUIRIES THAT
ARE SURE TO ARISE.
GODLEY

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